

CONSORT

Bruny Island Battery Trial

What is the Bruny Island Battery Trial?

The CONSORT Bruny Island Battery Trial is an ARENA funded research project, which will address how batteries can be used by householders to manage their energy while assisting in the management of current network constraints. During the trial, approximately 40 battery storage systems will be installed in homes on Bruny Island.

The batteries will include ground-breaking energy management software that allows homeowners to sell their power back to the grid. This technology will help actively keep the network within voltage and capacity limits, reducing the reliance on diesel generation during peak season, enabling battery owners and networks to work together to maximise the value of solar energy

What is CONSORT?

CONSORT (CONsumer energy systems providing cost-effective grid suppORT) is a collaboration between three universities (The Australian National University, The University of Sydney, and The University of Tasmania), electricity network provider TasNetworks, and Canberra-based battery control software business Reposit Power. Reposit's system will be used to test the new control software, provide consumer with different user experiences to examine distinctive types of offerings, and record and report on consumer behaviour.

Why Bruny Island?

Bruny Island has been chosen for the Trial because of the nature of the electricity network on the island, the regular demand peaks that occur during holiday periods, and because a deployment of batteries of this size can make a real and measurable difference. Bruny has a good solar resource by global standards, better than many locations around the world where solar energy has been successful. Bruny Island presents a fantastic opportunity to "teach" the rest of Australia (and beyond) how batteries should be put to their best use in future.

What are the benefits of participating in the Trial?

Households who participate in the Bruny Island Battery Trial will be provided with a large subsidy to install solar power and a 'smart' battery storage system. Participating households will then be able to generate solar power for their own immediate use, store it for later use and sell it back to the grid when the electricity network needs it (or even possibly when the wholesale cost of electricity is high). The battery management software works to ensure the best financial outcome for the householder. This benefit will likely be seen via savings on electricity bills both during and beyond the period of the Trial and possibly from additional 'network support payments' provided by CONSORT during the trial.



The logo for the CONSORT Bruny Island Battery Trial is centered at the top of the page. It features the word "CONSORT" in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. Below it, the words "Bruny Island Battery Trial" are written in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font. The background of the logo is a scenic photograph of a coastline with a sandy beach, blue water, and distant mountains under a clear sky.

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What requirements do I need to meet to participate in the Trial?

To participate in the Trial, your property must be connected to the southern feeder of Bruny Island and have a constant, reliable internet connection (or you must be willing to connect to the internet if you are selected to participate in the Trial). Householders that apply and are selected to participate in the Trial will be required to install a battery storage system at their home. For most participants, this will include installing solar panels or upgrading their existing solar system. CONSORT will provide a large subsidy and householders will contribute a small part of the total system price. Householders will own their systems, and it will remain after the trial completes.

What will I need to do throughout the Trial?

Participating householders will be required to take part in the Trial until the completion of the project in mid-2019, during which time your system will be required to provide energy data to, and receive price signals from, the CONSORT project team.

All households taking part in the Trial will also take part in the household (social) research component of the Trial. This will involve a representative from each participating household taking part in 4 interviews (held over 2 years) and filling out an 'energy diary' for a period of two weeks. A subset of households in the Trial will also take part in 1 or 2 focus groups and digitally recorded 'energy tours' of their homes.

The first interview will be held just before the battery and solar power technology is installed in your home. The second one will be held about 2 weeks after the technology is installed. Another will be held one year after the installation and the final interview will be held 2 years after the technology is installed. At least two of these interviews will be conducted face-to-face and in your home so that we can talk directly to the technology and see how it is all set up. The other two interviews will most likely be carried out over the phone. The first interview may take around an hour. The other three interviews should take approximately 30 minutes. Interview will vary house to house as each household has differing subject matter to discuss.

Participating in the UTAS household research ensures that the CONSORT team learns from household experiences with the installed technology. Participant feedback is important. With your input we can ensure that any future projects understand householder needs, the way householders like to use the solar power and battery technology and the types of feedback information that best support household decision.

I am interested in participating in the Trial. What do I need to do next?

The *Bruny Island Battery Trial Participation Application Fact Sheet* will guide you through the application process. If you are selected to participate in the Trial, you will receive a letter of offer including a detailed participant information sheet and an agreement which will set out the terms and conditions of participating in the Trial should you choose to proceed. You will also receive a list of installers and instructions on how to access the subsidy and install your battery storage system. You can find more information at www.brunybatterytrial.org